

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 5 and 18-27 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 6, 8, 12, 16, 29, and add claims 30-39, such that the status of the claims is as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A device for blending materials comprising:
a carrier support arranged to support a closed bag containing material to be blended;
at least one reciprocating kneading paddle having an extended position and being arranged to apply a kneading action to the walls of a supported bag for homogenizing its contents; and
an adjustor for controllably varying a spacing between the paddle when in its extended position and the carrier support, wherein the adjustor comprises a cam arrangement for varying the spacing between the extended paddle position and the carrier support.
2. (Original) A device according to claim 1 in which the adjustor comprises a user operable control for use in varying the spacing.
3. (Original) A device according to claim 2 wherein the user operable control comprises a knob which is rotatable by the user to vary the spacing.
4. (Original) A device according to claim 1 in which the adjustor is arranged so that the spacing is variable during operation of the device.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) A device according to claim [[5]] 1 in which the cam arrangement comprises a pair of interacting cam portions whose cam surfaces face one another.

7. (Original) A device according to claim 6 in which a first of the cam portions is mounted against rotation in the device and a second of the cam portions is mounted in the device for rotation relative to the first cam portion.
8. (Currently amended) A device according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 6 in which the cam portions are arranged so that relative rotation of the pair of cam portions causes a spacing between their respective mounting points to change.
9. (Original) A device according to claim 7 in which the adjustor comprises a user operable control and the second cam portion is rotatable by operation of the user operable control.
10. (Original) A device according to claim 1 in which the device comprises a backing portion on which the carrier support is mounted.
11. (Original) A device according to claim 10 in which the carrier support is arranged for movement relative to the backing portion to change the spacing between the paddle when in its extended position and the carrier support.
12. (Currently amended) A device according to claim 11 in which ~~the adjustor comprises a cam arrangement for varying the spacing between the extended paddle position and the carrier support,~~ cam arrangement comprises a pair of interacting cam portions whose cam surfaces face one another and one of the cam portions is mounted on the carrier support and ~~[[the]]~~ an other of the cam portions is mounted on the backing portion such that relative rotation of the cam portions causes the spacing between the carrier support and the backing portion to change, thus changing the spacing between the paddle when in its extended position and the carrier support.
13. (Original) A device according to claim 10 in which the device comprises a door which comprises the backing portion, the carrier support and the adjustor.

14. (Original) A device according to claim 13 in which the backing portion comprises the outer surface of the door.
15. (Original) A device according to claim 13 in which the adjustor comprises a user operable control and the user operable control is provided at the outer surface of the door.
16. (Currently amended) A device according to claim ~~[[10]]~~ 12 in which the adjustor comprises a user operable control which control comprises a knob which is mounted to the ~~second~~ other of the cam portions and protrudes through the backing portion.
17. (Original) A device according to claim 15 in which the control comprises a knob for adjusting the paddle clearance which is provided on the door.
- 18-27. (Canceled)
28. (Original) An apparatus comprising a device according to claim 1 and a sample bag comprising a generally triangular sample holding portion wherein a width of the bag is substantially the same as a width of a paddle in the device which is arranged to contact the bag for blending of the contents.
29. (Currently amended) A device for blending materials comprising:
a carrier support arranged to support a closed bag containing material to be blended;
at least one reciprocating kneading paddle having an extended position and being arranged to apply a kneading action to the walls of a supported bag for homogenizing its contents; and
adjustment means for controllably varying a spacing between the paddle when in its extended position and the carrier support wherein the adjustment means is arranged so that the spacing is variable during operation of the device, wherein the adjustment means comprises a cam arrangement for varying the spacing between the extended paddle position and the carrier support.

30. (New) A device for blending materials comprising:
a carrier support arranged to support a closed bag containing material to be blended;
at least one reciprocating kneading paddle having an extended position and being arranged to apply a kneading action to the walls of a supported bag for homogenizing its contents; and
an adjustor for controllably varying a spacing between the paddle when in its extended position and the carrier support, wherein the device comprises a backing portion on which the carrier support is mounted, and wherein the carrier support is arranged for movement relative to the backing portion to change the spacing between the paddle when in its extended position and the carrier support.
31. (New) A device according to claim 30 in which the adjustor comprises a user operable control for use in varying the spacing.
32. (New) A device according to claim 31 wherein the user operable control comprises a knob which is rotatable by the user to vary the spacing.
33. (New) A device according to claim 30 in which the adjustor is arranged so that the spacing is variable during operation of the device.
34. (New) A device according to claim 30 in which the device comprises a door which comprises the backing portion, the carrier support and the adjustor.
35. (New) A device according to claim 34 in which the backing portion comprises the outer surface of the door.
36. (New) A device according to claim 34 in which the adjustor comprises a user operable control and the user operable control is provided at the outer surface of the door.
37. (New) A device according to claim 36 in which the control comprises a knob for adjusting the paddle clearance which is provided on the door.

38. (New) An apparatus comprising a device according to claim 30 and a sample bag comprising a generally triangular sample holding portion wherein a width of the bag is substantially the same as a width of a paddle in the device which is arranged to contact the bag for blending of the contents.

39. (New) A device for blending materials comprising:
a carrier support arranged to support a closed bag containing material to be blended;
at least one reciprocating kneading paddle having an extended position and being arranged to apply a kneading action to the walls of a supported bag for homogenizing its contents; and

adjustment means for controllably varying a spacing between the paddle when in its extended position and the carrier support wherein the adjustment means is arranged so that the spacing is variable during operation of the device, wherein the device comprises a backing portion on which the carrier support is mounted, and wherein the carrier support is arranged for movement relative to the backing portion to change the spacing between the paddle when in its extended position and the carrier support.